

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
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FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01
OMB-01 DOE-15 SOE-02 AGRE-00 STR-07 /098 W
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R 070745Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4692
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN IY
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
JUCONSUL HERMOSILLO 1
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SOFIA 1074

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, BU, MX
SUBJECT: LOPEZ POGILLO VISIT TO BULGARIA

1. SUMMARY: MEXICAN PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO VISITED BULGARIA MAY 25-29. MAIN TOPIC OF VISIT WAS ECONOMIC COOPERATION; MEXICANS ARE INTERESTED IN BULGARIAN AGRI-CULTURAL TECHNOLOGY, BULGARIANS WANT MEXICAN RAW MATERIALS. CULTURAL TIES ARE GROWING ON BASIS OF PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP MRS. LOPEZ POTILLO AND LYUDMILA BHIVKOVA. END SUMMARY.

2. MEXICAN PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO AND HIS WIFE PAID FIVE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO BULGARIA MAY 25-29 AT INVITA-
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TION OF STATE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN TODOR ZHIVKOV. LOPEZ PORTILLOS WERE ACCCOMPANIED BY SECRETARY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS ROEL GARCIA, COMMERCE SECRETARY DE LA VEGA DOMINGUEZ, PATRIMONY AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY DE OTEYZA FERNANDEZ, COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT SECRETARY MUJICA MONTOYA, FISHERIES DEPARTMENT CHIEF RAFFUL MIGUEL, PEMEX CHAIRMAN JORGE DIAS SERRANO, AND FURTHER ENTOURAGE

OF MORE THAN 300 OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, JOURNALISTS
AND SECURITY PEOPLE.

3. MEXICAN PARTY WAS MET AT SOFIA AIRPORT AND SEEN OFF

BY TODM ZHIVKOV AND HIS DAUGHTER, CULTURE COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN LYUDMILLA ZHIVKOVA, WHO APPARENTLY HAS CLOSE PERSONAL
RELATIONSHIP WITH MRS. LOPEZ PORTILLO. MEXICAN PRESIDENT
GAVE RECEPTION FOR DIPLOMATIC MISSION HEADS, RECEIVED
HONORARY DOCTORATE FROM SOFIA UNIVERSITY, LAID WREATH AT
TOMB OF BULGARIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (BCP) HERO GEORGI
DIMITROV (WHOM HE COMPARED TO BENITO JUARZKSIC)), WAS
GUEST AT STATE DINNER, AND VISITED INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL
ENTERPRISES AT PAZARDZHIK, PLOVDIV, TOLBUKHIN, AND THE
BLACK SEA CITY OF VARNA.

4. INTERNATIONAL ISSUES PORTION OF COMMUNIQUE CONTAINED
GENERAL POINTS FAVORING DETENTE, A "REORGANIZATION" OF INTER-
NATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, A FRUITFUL UNSSOD SESSION,
AND EARMARKING OF PORTION OF FUNDS NOW USED FOR ARMS FOR
ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED
SATISFACTION AT RECENTSIGNATURE BY USSR OF PROTOCOL
NO. 2 TO THE AGREEMENT FOR BANNING NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN
LATIN AMERICA (AGREEMENT OF TLATELOLCO).

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5. BILATERAL PORTION OF COMMUNIQUE DEALT WITH COOPERA-
TION IN FIELDS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SCIENCE, BANKING,
CULTURE, TRADE, TECHNOLOGY, TOURISM, AND SPORTS. IT
STATED THAT JOINT PROJECTS WERE BEING PREPARED IN AGRI-
CULTURE AND FOOD PRODUCTION. AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED
PLEDGING IMPLEMENTATION IN THESE FIELDS AS WELL AS A
TRADE PROTOCOL FOR UAIP PROVIDING FOR \$36.8 MILLION
IN BALANCED, TWO-WAY TRADE. IN INTERESTING FIELD OF POWER,
MEXICO OFFERED ONLY TECHNICAL COOPERATION INCLUDING
GEOLOGISTS FOR SURVEYS AND GEOTHERMAL TECHNOLOGY. COM-
MUNIQUE ALSO SAID BOTH SIDES WOULD BEGIN "TECHNICAL
PREPARATION" OF AN "EVENTUAL" CONSULAR CONVENTION.

6. EMBOFF DISCUSSED VISIT MAY 24TH WITH MEXICAN EMBASSY
SECOND I/C AIDA MANZO DE MUNTEANU. SHE SAID THAT WHAT
MEXICANS WANTED PRIMARILY FROM BULGARIANSWAS RELATIVELY
LOW-COST, RELEVANT AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY. DEPUTY
SECRETARY FOR AGRARIAN REFORM HAD BEEN IN BULGARIA 22 DAYS
IN ADVANCE OF LOPEZ PORTILLO VISIT WORKING OUT PRACTICAL
ASPECTS OF COOPERATION AND SEVERAL BULGARIAN PROJECTS
WERE SLATED FOR NORTHERN MEXICO, IN THE STATE OF SONORA.
BULGARIANS WOULD BE HELPING WITH ESTABLISHMENT OF AGRICULTURAL

COOPERATIVES, A SUGAR PLANT, AND A FORAGE PLANT. MEXICO
WAS INTERESTED IN BULGARIAN ORGANIZATIONAL TECHNOLOGY IN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SOFIA 1074

AGRICULTURE, SPECIFICALLY IN THE VERTICALLY INTEGRATED
AGRO-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX, WHICH BULGARIA HAS PIONEERED TO
SOME EXTENT. IN RETURN, MEXICO WOULD SELL BULGARIA VPPER,
COFFEE, TEXTILES, AND SOME CHEMICALS, INCLUDING NITRATES.

7. DE MUNTEANU SAID THAT MEXICO WOULD NOT BE SELLING
NATURAL GAS TO BULGARIA NOR WOULD MEXICO BE CONSTRUCTING
A NATURAL GAS PLANT IN BULGARIA, AS HAD BEEN RUMORED. ONLY
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN FIELD OF PETROLEUM WOULD BE
PROVIDED. SHE SAID ALSO THAT SHE KNEW NOTHING OF ANY DEAL
BETWEEN MEXICO AND THE USSR WHEREBY THE FORMER WOULD SELL
POL TO CUBA AND THE LATTER TO SPAIN, A DEAL ALSO RUMORED
IN THE MAKING. SHE ADDED, HOWVER, THAT LOPEZ PORTILLO HAD
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BEEN MUCH IMPRESSED BY SOVIET PETROLEUM FACILITIES AT BAKU, WHICH HE VISITED.

8. SHE SAID NO FISHING DEAL HAD BEEN CONCLUDED, DESPITE PRESENCE IN MEXICAN DELEGATION OF FISHING DEPARTMENT CHIEF AND WELL-KNOWN BULGARIAN DESIRE TO FISH MORE EXTENSIVELY IN MEXICAN WATERS. SHE SAID THAT CONSULAR CONVENTION MENTIONED IN COMMUNIQUE WAS LONG WAY OFF.

9. FINALLY, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, "WHY BULGARIA?" OF COMECON MEMBERS IN ADDITION TO USSR, IN REFERENCE TO WHAT SOME OBSERVEK REGARD AS CURIOUS GROWING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEXICO AND BULGARIA, DE MUNTEANU RESPONDED WITH SEVERAL POINTS. FIRST OF ALL, MEXICO SAW CLOSER ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH OTHER COMECON MATIONS A NATURAL COMITANT OF ITS GROWING TRADE WITH CUBA; IN THAT CONTEXT BULGARIA WAS THE ONE WHICH MEXICO PERCEIVED AS CLOSEST TO IT IN TERMS OF LEVEL AND NATURE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. BULGARIA IS INDUSTRIALIZED, BUT IT REMAINS SOMEWHAT INNOVATIVE IN AGRICULTURE AND STILL DEPENDS TO GREAT DEGREE ON ITS AGRICULTURALSECTOR. SECONDLY, AND OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE IN CONTEXT OF THIS TRIP IN DE MINTLEANU'S ESTIMATION WAS FACT THAT CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP HAS DEVELOPED BETWEEN LYUDMILA ZHIVKOVA, CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE AND DAUGHTER OF STATE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN AND BULGARIAN COMMUNIST PARTY FIRST SECRETARY TODOR ZHIVKOV, AND MRS. LOPEZ PORTILLO. EACH HAD SAME GOAL OF BROADENING AND DISSEMINATING INTERNATIONAL PERCEPTION OF HER COUNTRY'S CULTURE. "MEXICO WANTS TO GET AWAY FROM MARIACHIS AND BULGARIA FROH YOGURT," SAID DE MUNTEANU. THEY HAD THAT IN COMMON AND LIKED EACH OTHER PERSONALLY VERY MUCH. THUS, THE VISIT.

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10. BIOGRAPHIC NOTE FOR MEXICO CITY: MEXICAN EMBASSY OFFICER DE MUNTEANU SAID SHE WOULD BE RETURNING TO MEXICO THIS SUMMER TO JOIN STAFF OF OFFICE OF PRESIDENT TO WORK ON CULTURAL AND OTHER COOPERATION WITH BULGARIA AND OTHER EEE COUNTRIES. HER HUSBAND, MARIO, A FORMER ROMANIAN NIGHTCLUB SINGER WHO NOW HAS MEXICAN CITIZENSHIP, WILL BE TAKING POSITION IN DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM. BOTH ARE FRIENDLY AND ACCESSIBLE.

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